

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
DODE-00 ABF-01 /060 W
-----081117Z 109118 /11

R 071920Z APR 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2735

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, EFIN, AORG
SUBJECT: CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING CONTRACT AUTHORITY

REF: STATE 067337

1. NATO CONTROLLER ADVISED THAT CONTRACT AUTHORITY HAS BEEN USED BY THE CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX YEARS. NATO AUDITORS HAD FOUND THT TOO MUCH CASH WAS BEING CARRIED OVER FROM ONE YEAR TO THE NEXT.

2. USING CHAPTER IX OF DOCUMENT BC-D(76)21, BUDGET ESTIMATES FY 1977, AS AN EXAMPLE, HE EXPLAINED THT FORMERLY WHEN A CONTRACT WAS ISSUED FOR NIAG PREFEASIBILITY STUDIES THE FULL AMOUNT WAS REQUESTED FROM NATO CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES AND KEPT AS CASH ON HAND, EVEN THOUGH THE WORK MIGHT NOT BE COMPLETED FOR ONE OR TWO YEARS.

3. WHEN THE AUDITORS CRITICIZED THE LARGE YEAR-END CASH BALANCE, THE CBC RECOMMENDED THAT AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT FOR WORK UP TO A MAXIMUM FIGURE WOULD BE GIVEN IN ONE YEAR. IF CONTRACT ACTUALLY SIGNED, THE FUNDS WOULD BE BUDGETED FOR AND REQUESTED IN THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

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4. THIS HAD BEEN DONE IN CHAPTER IX AND CHAPTER XX. CONTRACTS ISSUED IN 1976 WERE FUNDED UNDER THE 1977 BUDGET AND CONTRACTING AUTHORITY FOR BF 35 MILLION HAD BEEN ISSUED FOR 1977. THE TOTAL OF ANY CONTRACTING AUTHORITY USED IN 1977 FOR THESE CHAPTERS WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE 1978 BUDGET AND FUNDS REQUESTED DURING THE 1978 CALENDAR YEAR.

5. THE CONTROLLER SAID THAT THE PRINCIPLE ALWAYS EXISTS FOR THE MILITARY BUDGET COMMITTEE TO GRANT CONTRACT

AUTHORITY, BUT THAT IS RARELY USED.

6. THE USE OF CONTRACT AUTHORITY IS NEW TO THE CBC
BUDGET OFFICER, WHO IS ACCUSTOMED TO OBLIGATING FUNDS
UPON THE SIGNING OF A CONTRACT, AND NO MENTION WAS
MADE CONCERNING CONTRACT AUTHORITY WHEN REPORTING CBC
DISCUSSIONS OR REQUESTING ADVICE FOR THE CY 1977
BUDGET. INFORMATION CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT'S
OBLIGATION PROCEDURE FOR CONTRACT AUTHORITY AND ITS
WISHES FOR THE CY 1978 CYCLE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.
STRAUSZ-HUPE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO02031
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197704102/baaabcvf.tel
Line Count: 69
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 5ef6b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 067337
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05-Apr-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2665372
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVIL BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING CONTRACT AUTHORITY
TAGS: NATO, EFIN, AORG
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbs://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5ef6b39b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009